



LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

A N N U A L R E P O R T .

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for the

Y E A R 1962.



LLANGOLLEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1962.

I have the honour to present my 12th Annual Report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the Llangollen Urban District for the year ended December 31st 1962 together with the information supplied by the Public Health Inspector.

The Town of Llangollen is beautifully situated on the banks of the River Dee. Through the town passes the Old Roman Road of Watling Street joining London to Holyhead and indicates that the history of Llangollen reaches back to the dim past.

Its lofty castle shows the town to have been a centre of strife and bloodshed between celt and Roman, followed by Saxon and Norman who built the beautiful Vale Crucis Abbey. Today the story is completely different for now the town has become a centre of peace and goodwill to all nations under the influence of the International Musical Eisteddfod which becomes more successful each year.

The only snag is our unpredictable climate which occasionally puts a damper on the enthusiasum of our visitors. Nevertheless the rain has its advantages for the beauty of the scenery is largely dependent on a plentiful supply of water.

The health of the Community was excellent during the year for no epidemics of infectious diseases occurred. The figures of the Census taken in April 1961 became available this year and showed that the population was 3,049 in 1961 as compared to 3,274 at the Census taken in 1951. These figures show a fall of more than 200 persons in our population during that past 10 years. No building or slum clearance was done during 1962 but several families from slum property were rehoused in the new bungalows, that had been completed in 1961.

A County Chiropody service has been established which is doing wonderful work for the old people.

I must acknowledge the excellent co-operation of Mr. Fawcett and for his section of this report.

I am also indebted to Mr. E. Ellis Roberts, Clerk of the Council, for his help in compiling this report. Finally I would thank the Chairman of the Health and Housing Committee and the Councillors for their continued courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

1. GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of the District in Acres..... 3,107
Registrar General's estimate of population 3,010.
Number of inhabited houses..... 1,129.
Rateable Value of the District as at
1st October 1962..... 38,087.
Sum represented by product of a Penny Rate
for the Year ended 31st March 1962... £149. 18. 9.

POPULATION.

The estimated population as given by the Registrar General was 3,010 as compared to an estimate of 3,000 in 1961.

However at the Census taken in 1961 the actual population was 3,049. These figures show that the population is only just managing to keep over the 3,000 mark. New houses and new industries are the best means of boosting up the population.

2. VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS (comparability factor 1.02.)

There was a total of 48 live births notified during the year as compared to 40 during 1960 showing a welcome increase of 8.

The births included 28 boys and 20 girls and were all legitimate.

Most of the births take place in our local cottage Hospital which does a wonderful job of work in this respect. The staff of this Hospital deserve our praise and appreciation.

BIRTH RATE.

The birth rate was 15.95 as compared to 13.33 in 1961. The corrected birth rate was 16.27 for comparison with England and Wales whose birth rate was 18.00.

STILL BIRTHS.

There were no still births registered in 1962 as compared to 1 still birth in 1961.

DEATHS (comparability factor 0.87)

There was a total of 44 deaths registered during 1962 as compared to 39 deaths registered in 1961, showing an increase of 5.

The deaths included 17 men and 27 women, so that we find that 10 more women died than men which is unusual for in most years men have the highest mortality figures.

DEATH RATE

The death rate was 14.60 as compared to 13.00 in 1961. The corrected death rate was 12.70 that for England and Wales was 11.9.

CAUSES OF DEATH.

Diseases of the heart and circulation caused most of the deaths with 28.

Of this number 10 were due to coronary thrombosis which disease is on the increase.

The main cause is said to be associated with over eating and lack of exercise usually affecting persons of middle age.

Only three persons died of cancer. They were all women. There were no cases of lung cancer. This is surprising in view of the fact that cancer of the lung has been on the increase throughout the country as a whole with the resulting call for a campaign against smoking. There is a definite association between the increase in cigarette smoking and the increase in lung cancer. So far all efforts to persuade the public that smoking is dangerous have proved futile.

Causes of Death;

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Malignant Diseases.....	-.	3.	3.
Leukaemia.....	-.	1.	1.
Vascular Lesions of nervous system.	1.	3.	4.
Coronary disease and angina.....	6.	4.	10.
Hypertension with heart disease....	-.	3.	3.
Other heart diseases.....	4.	7.	11.
Pneumonia.....	1.	1.	2.
Bronchitis.....	1.	2.	3.
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	-.	1.	1.
Hyperplasia of prostate.....	1.	-.	1.
Congenital malformations.....	-.	1.	1.
other defined and illdefined diseases.	2.	-.	2.
Accidents.....	1.	-.	1.
Suicide.....	-.	1.	1.
	<u>17.</u>	<u>27.</u>	<u>44.</u>

INFANT DEATHS.

There was a total of two infant deaths during 1962 as compared to none in 1961.

The infants were both boys and died before they were a week old.

The infantile mortality rate was 41.66 as compared to 21.4 for England and Wales.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All notifiable infectious diseases should be notified to the District Medical Officer of Health as soon as they are suspected, so that suitable precautions can be taken to prevent the spread of infection. The town was fortunate that there were no epidemics of infectious diseases during 1962 only three cases of infectious diseases were notified. These were cases of pulmonary tuberculosis affecting men who were treated by the Chest Physician at Sanatoria when necessary.

The Mass Radiography Unit pays frequent visits to Llangollen in order to discover any unsuspected cases in schools, factories and workshops. B.C.G. vaccination is also given to raise the resistance of contacts of known cases.

IMMUNISATION AND VACCINATION.

The County Council is responsible for the provision of these services through the clinics and General Practitioners in the town.

Immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus is carried out in one operation which is usually commenced at the age of 4 months. A course of three injections is given at monthly intervals. No cases of Diphtheria have occurred during the past 10 years and very few cases of Whooping Cough.

The number of children immunised is shown below:-

<u>Primary doses.</u>			<u>Booster Doses.</u>	
<u>0. - 1.</u>	<u>1. - 4.</u>	<u>5. - 14.</u>	<u>0. - 4.</u>	<u>5. - 14.</u>
22.	23	2.	23.	9.

VACCINATION AGAINST SMALLPOX.

The serious outbreak of smallpox in South Wales which caused a number of deaths produced a state of alarm among the population, so that there was a rush to be vaccinated. Consequently the figures for vaccination of all ages were greatly increased.

Many persons going abroad on holiday or business had to be vaccinated to comply with foreign regulations. This experience should remind everyone that it is better to be prepared before the event of an outbreak, and so get all children vaccinated at the proper time.

The numbers vaccinated are shown below (for 1962).

	<u>Primary</u>	<u>Revaccination.</u>
0 - 1.	39	-.
1 - 2.	7	-.
2 - 4.	26	3.
5. - 14.	76	57
15. +	69	232.
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	217.	292.

During 1961 only 22 persons received primary vaccinations and three were revaccinated. This shows the remarkable repercussions of a smallpox outbreak in South Wales in 1962.

POLIO VACCINATION.

The oral method of giving polio vaccine was commenced on April 1st 1962. Infants were given three drops in syrup and older children and adults were given three drops on lumpsugar. The age limit included persons between 6 months and 40 years.

The number vaccinated is shown below:-

<u>Primary Doses.</u>						<u>Booster doses.</u>	
<u>0 - 1.</u>	<u>1 - 4.</u>	<u>5 - 14.</u>	<u>15 - 25.</u>	<u>25 - 40.</u>	<u>total.</u>	<u>3rd.</u>	<u>4th.</u>
8.	16.	1.	4.	17.	46	234.	24.

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

The procedure for declaring an area unfit has not changed but the standard for an unfit house has. The new standard laid down by the Ministry is a legal one but is very elastic and open to argument. Section 1 of the Rent and Repairs Act 1954 required each local Authority to survey its area and present its slum clearance proposals within a year after the Act came into force. Such a short time did not allow a survey in great detail to be carried out.

Our first proposals following the Survey in 1955 had to be deferred as no Council Houses were being built. The Act also makes provision where local Authorities cannot carry out their proposals in the stated period namely 5 years. Under Section 2 a local Authority may purchase houses within a clearance area and allow them to be occupied after carrying out the bare essential repairs. We have allowed these improvements to take place in the last 5 years so that the number of houses now to be dealt with is considerably less. Local Authorities should encourage improvements to existing houses by making grants as provided for. In this way, sufficient housing accommodation would be provided far cheaper than if all efforts were devoted to building new houses.

Nevertheless there are some properties which are not fit for human habitation and are not capable of being rendered so fit at a reasonable cost. These can be dealt with as individual unfit houses which is the simplest method or a clearance area can be declared which is more complicated and takes at least six months as an enquiry by the Ministry's Inspector is usually held, where objections to the proposals can be heard.

To cope with the slum clearance we have a site for 34 houses at Pengwern also ten bungalows have been completed. Thus it is hoped to complete the slum clearance programme in the next five years.

CHIROPODY SERVICE.

The County Council have provided a Chiropody Service for the old people of Llangollen. The clinic is held at Meadowcroft, Market Street, and the Chiropodist attends each Friday all day. Treatment is given by appointment and half an hour is allowed for each person. This service will be a great boon to the elderly people as many of them suffer from very painful foot complaints which need regular treatment. The fact that there were 461 attendances shows how the service is appreciated.

Details are given below:

<u>No. in Register.</u>	<u>No. of Sessions.</u>	<u>New cases.</u>	<u>Total attendances.</u>
92.	88	17	461

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE.

This service is also provided by the County Council and has been a wonderful help in assisting old people to carry on in their own homes instead of having to be sent to an Institution.

The Home Helps are provided to assist the Aged and chronic sick, Tuberculosis cases and to help mothers who wish to have their confinement at home.

There has not been a great demand for the services of Home Helps in Llangollen. During 1962 only six chronic sick persons required home help. The number of Home Helps available was 5.

Sanitary Inspections.

The enlargement and modernisation of the treatment plant at Berwyn and the Dee abstraction plant at the Horseshoe Falls is now complete and working satisfactorily.

The Undertaking is now capable of supplying wholesome water at a reasonable pressure to all parts of the district where there are mains, at the end of the year the Council were considering an improvement scheme to increase the pressure to one small area consisting of some twenty houses.

The following reports indicate that the treatment of the water is satisfactory:-

Number of samples sent to the Public Health Laboratory.

Main Supply..... 4.
Private Supplies..... 2.

Number returned "Highly satisfactory".

Main supply 4.
Private supplies..... 2.

Chemical Analysis of Public Supply.

Appearance clear and colourless.
Odour..... nil
Reaction pH..... 7.1
..... parts per million.
Total solids..... 142
Nitrogen as free & saline ammonia..... 0.08
Nitrogen as albuminoid ammonia..... 0.00
Nitrogen as nitrites..... nil
Nitrogen as nitrates..... 1.75
Chlorides, as Cl..... 16.
Oxygen absorbed from permanganate in 4 hours,
at 27° C..... 1.1
Total hardness 79
temporary hardness 50
permanent hardness..... 29
alkalinity..... 50
Free chlorine..... nil
Potassium as K..... 0.9
Anionic Synthetic detergents..... 0.9
Manganese, as Mn..... -
Cyanides and Thiocyanates..... nil
Poisonous metals..... nil
Flouride..... less than 0.1
Alumium as Al..... 0.05

Opinion. The Chemical condition of this water is satisfactory and, assuming that the same applies to the bacteriological condition, the water may be regarded as suitable for domestic purposes. The content of flouride is negligible.

The following table indicates the amount of and distribution of water produced by the Undertaking during the Year.

NATURE OF CONSUMPTION.	TOTAL CONSUMPTION IN MILLION GALLONS. FOR THE 12 MONTHS ENDING 31st Dec.1961.
DOMESTIC.	53 Estimated.
TRADE (including agriculture.)	17.metered.
OTHERS.	18 metered.
	2 metered. - supply to Wrexham R.D.C. Llantysilio Parish.
TOTAL.....	90

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

We have now completed the first year of operation of the Sewage Disposal Works with the resultant improvement in the cleanliness of the River Dee.

The new disposal plant has worked well and results of analysis of the final effluent have proved satisfactory.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

Refuse collection is carried out by direct labour, Most premises receive a weekly collection. During the winter months the outlying houses and farms receive a monthly collection and this is increased to once fortnightly during the summer months. The method of disposal of refuse is by controlled tipping at the Council's own refuse tip at Wenffrwd.

RODENT CONTROL.

The Council have one trained rodent operator who gives part of his time to this service. Two comprehensive sewer treatments were carried out successfully during the year and numerous minor treatments were given to infestations of both rats and mice on private houses.

HOUSING.

During the year ten aged persons bungalows were completed and occupied.

Architects were also appointed to prepare a scheme for the erection of twenty four dwellings comprising single bedroom accommodation for aged persons, and two and three bedroomed flats and maisonettes. When completed some of these dwellings will be used to rehouse persons living in sub-standard property.

STANDARD AND DISCRETIONARY GRANTS.

The Council approved three applications for Standard Grants during the year.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

There are six caravans sited on one farm in the area for which a licence has been granted under the provisions of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Acts 1960.

A further application was refused and the caravans have been moved from the site.

There is no organised camping site in the area and during the summer months scores of tents are set up in fields around the Town. Some parties are well organised and orderly but a few are unruly and tend to give tenting a bad reputation.

FOOD INSPECTIONS.

Thirty one visits have been made to premises where food is prepared for human consumption. The general standard of hygiene of the food handlers was found to be good.

The following table gives details of the foodstuffs which have been condemned as unfit during the year.

Tinned Fruit.....	68 lbs.
Tinned Milk.....	6 tins.
Tinned Fish.....	1 lb.
Tinned Meat and Ham.....	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Tinned Vegetables.....	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Pears.....	44 lb.
Butter.....	21 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Cheese.....	1 lb.

ICE CREAM.

Twenty-seven premises are registered under the Food and Drugs Act for the sale of prepacked Icecream only.

Periodic visits are made to ensure that the premises and apparatus conform to the provisions of the Food and Drugs Act.

MARKETS.

Weekly Auction sales have been held in the Market throughout the year.

At the end of the year a Contract had been let for the repair and improvement to the market.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The County Council is now the Authority for issuing Licences to retail milk. There is one retail dairy in the Town and two grocer's shops are licensed to retail sterilised milk.

FACTORIES.

Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health:

	Number on Register.	NUMBER OF		
		Inspections.	written notices	occupiers prosecuted.
(1) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 and 6 are to be enforced by the Local Authority.	2.	4.	Nil	Nil
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	22.	44.	Nil	Nil
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises).	2.	2.	Nil	Nil
TOTALS.	26.	50.	Nil	Nil

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars.	Found.	Remedied	Referred to H. M. Inspector.
Want of cleanliness...	3.	3.	-.
Unreasonable temperatures...	nil.	-.	-.
Inadequate ventilation...	nil.	-.	-.
Overcrowding.....	nil	-.	-.

Yours obediently,

(SIGNED). T. K. HUGHES.

Medical Officer of Health.

..... 1963

